

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09659 302330Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION SINAI

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9659

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI PORG UNSC IS LE
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: WEIZMAN URGES DELAY IN CHALLENGING HADDAD

REFS: (A) BEIRUT 4307, (B) TEL AVIV 9658, (C) BEIRUT 4306,
(D) LEWIS/DRAPER TELCON - 7/30/78- 2315

1. HAVE TALKED TWICE WITH WEIZMAN SINCE RECEIPT OF REF A AND
SINCE MY TELCON WITH DRAPER. HAVE EXPLAINED AS BEST I CAN
RATIONALE FOR LEBANESE DECISION TO BEGIN MOVE SOUTH TOMORROW
MORNING COME HELL OR HIGH WATER - ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT EASY TO
UNDERSTAND OR EXPLAIN PHRASES LIKE "IT IS NOW OR NEVER" AFTER
LEBANESE HAVE SPENT MONTHS INCHING UP ON THIS DECISION.

2. WEIZMAN HAS JUST HAD LATE REPORT ON HADDAD'S STATE OF MIND -
WHICH IS VERY WORRIED AND VERY BELLICOSE. CLEARLY THE MUCH
HERALDED "LEBANESE FIX" IS NOT RPT NOT YET ON. WEIZMAN SAYS
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THE WORD IS OUT THAT SHEDDIAC "HAS GOTTEN THE SACK" AND HADDAD
"IS WORRIED ABOUT HIS OWN NECK". SHADDIAC'S FUTURE SEEMS TO
OCCASION LITTLE CONCERN HERE, BUT HADDAD'S A GREAT DEAL.
HADDAD SAYS THAT HIS MEN WILL FIRE ON THE LAF UNITS IF THEY
ATTEMPT TO MAKE TIBNIN TOMORROW.

3. I HAVE TOLD WEIZMAN WE HAVE CONVEYED HIS WARNING, BUT

THAT THE GOL SEEMS DETERMINED TO START MOVING SOUTH AT DAY-BREAK. ALSO TOLD HIM I WOULD URGE AMBASSADOR PARKER TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE GOL TO HALT ANY ADVANCE TOMORROW SHORT OF THE MARJAYOUN AREA AND HAVE ITS UNITS REMAIN WITHIN THE NORWEGIAN-CONTROLLED SECTOR FOR A DAY OR TWO, THUS ALLOWING MORE TIME TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF ADVANCE TO TIBNIN WITH HADDAD. WEIZMAN THINKS THIS MIGHT WORK, SAYS HE WILL DO HIS BEST WITH HADDAD IF WE WILL DO SAME WITH GOL, BUT IS NOT CERTAIN "WITH HADDAD'S PRESENT FRAME OF MIND" THAT HE CAN ASSURE THAT SOME FIRING WILL NOT OCCUR EVEN UNDER THIS SCENARIO.

4. WEIZMAN SAYS HADDAD IS ESPECIALLY WORRIED ABOUT PROSPECT OF SEVERAL HUNDRED LAF SOLDIERS MOVING VIA MARJAYOUN IN ONE GROUP (NOT BEING SURE THEY REALLY INTEND TO PASS ON THROUGH*). PERHAPS, HE THOUGHT, WITH A COUPLE OF DAYS TO EMPLOY IN WORKING ON HADDAD, HE COULD BE BROUGHT TO AGREE TO THE MOVEMENT OF "A COUPLE OF TRUCKLOADS OF SOLDIERS AT A TIME, RATHER THAN ALL IN ONE STRONG (*) COLUMN." IF, HOWEVER, HE SAID, THEY SHOW UP IN OR VERY NEAR MARJAYOUN TOMORROW, THEY WILL FACE FIRE FROM HADDAD'S FORCES.

5. IF IT REALLY IS "NOW OR NEVER", THEN IT HAD BEST BE "NOW" - BUT I STRONG URGE PARKER TRY TO COOL DOWN BOUTROS AND ABDO'S NEWLY DISCOVERED READINESS TO IGNORE THE DANGER OF TRYING TO "GO THROUGH" MILITIA ROAD
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BLOCKS. THIS IS A MOMENT FOR CAUTION AS WELL AS DETERMINATION. WEIZMAN HAS PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING HE CAN WITH HADDAD. BUT WE NEED TO GIVE STRONG CAUTIONARY COUNSEL TO THE GOL AS WELL - AND QUICKLY. LEWIS

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